



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S EMBARRASSING MENAGERIE—

The Gifts of an Admiring World.

IN TENDING only to express their esteem, admirers of President Roosevelt throughout the world have greatly embarrassed him by their showers of gifts. Magnificent antlered heads from the happy hunting grounds of sportsmen, or splendid pelts, trophies of some exciting shoot in the Rockies, no doubt interest and please him. They recall the days when he took part in the chase, as joyous and care-free as a boy out of school. Besides, a genuine sportsman always values such evidences of friendship on the part of kindred spirits.

But what earthly use has he for a Nubian lioness, a Gelada baboon, an ostrich, a zebra or a black bear?

All these animals, and many more, have been sent to the White House as gifts to the President. Were Mr. Roosevelt inclined to take up the life of a showman he could start with a large and varied menagerie. There are birds of many kinds, too, in the collection.

While a great source of delight to the Roosevelt children, this choice collection of beasts and birds would prove decidedly embarrassing if kept at the White House. They are not exactly parlor pets, nor can they be kept in the cellar. Consequently the Washington Zoo has been greatly enriched through the world's friendship for the President.

WERE the Lincoln Park Zoo census enumerator to set down in one column a list of animals and birds in the "Roosevelt menagerie," this result would appear:

One African lion.
Two African lionesses.
One Gelada baboon.
One black bear.
One Somali zebra.
One Somali ostrich.
Two specimens of the Bay lynx.
Five opossums.
A golden eagle.
Four macaws.

All these are said to be enjoying the best of health and spirits. Of the contributions sent to the zoo from the White House, only one, a Gelada baboon, failed to appreciate the greatness thrust upon it, and yielded up its Simian ghost.

As a rule, the presentation of gifts to the President is a very informal proceeding.

They come by express, by mail, by messenger, or in any way that happens to be convenient.

Somebody signs for them, and presently one of the President's secretaries acknowledges their arrival in a letter of thanks.

No list is kept, but it is the testimony of all those connected with the White House that there has never before been so many gifts delivered there as during the Roosevelt occupation.

Certainly, so many animals or birds have never before been presented to a chief magistrate. The White House menagerie would reveal a modest zoo were all the gifts retained at the Executive Mansion.

Of course, Mr. Roosevelt has received a great many presents because he was President of the United States, and the most generally popular President the country has ever had.

Others have come from his unconventional but sincere friends in the West, who have hunted with him and who sent them, not because he was President, but because they admired him as a good fellow.

Because he always accepts things as given to the President, rather than the man, however, many presents have been made nominally to Mrs. Roosevelt or the children, in the hope that they would be accepted as personal rather than official.

President Roosevelt's reputation as a mighty hunter is largely responsible for the character of the presents that go to increase the population of the zoo.

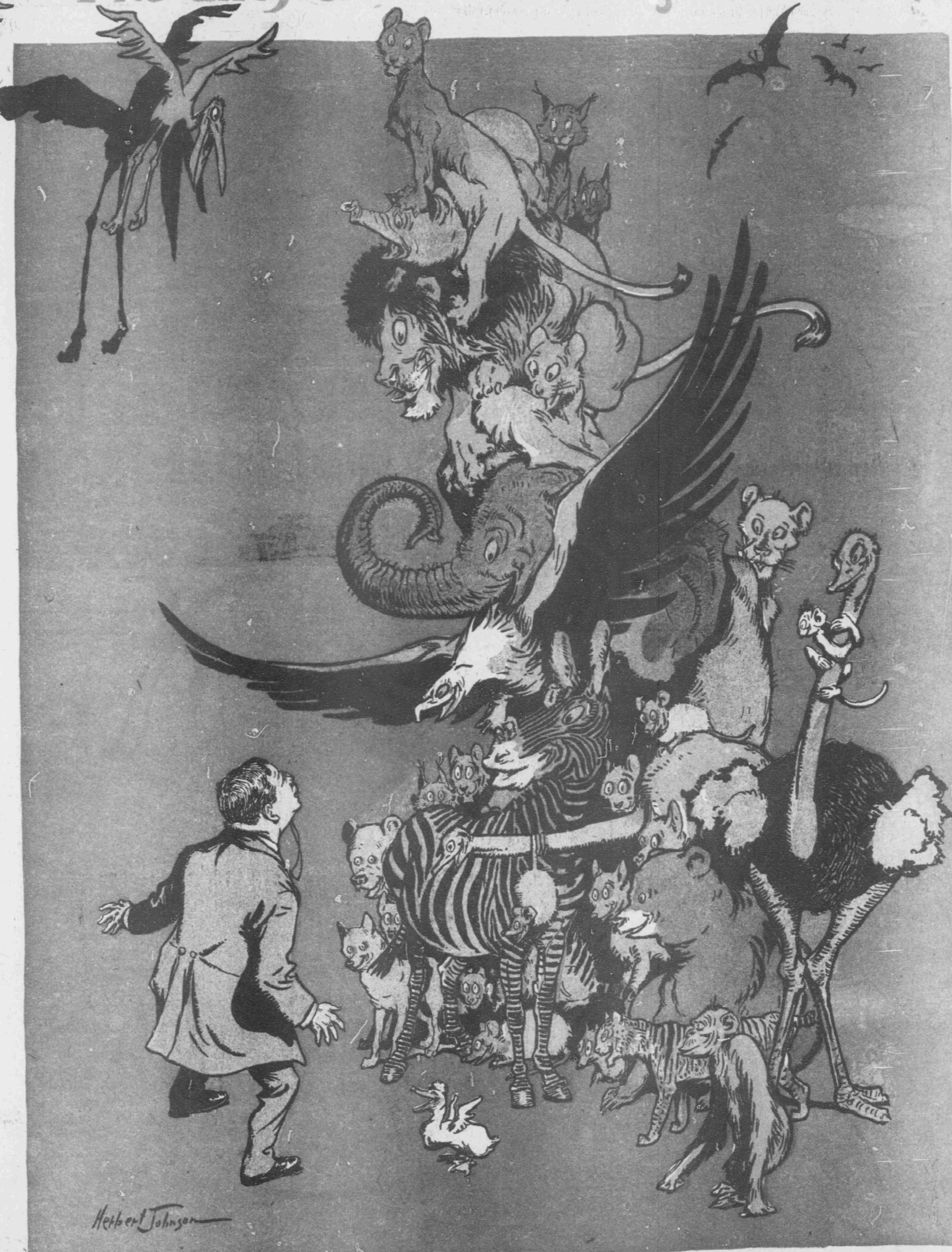
Should a party of sturdy mountaineers of the Rockies succeed in capturing alive the monarch of all grizzlies, their first impulse, undoubtedly, would be to box up the big animal and forward it, posthaste, to the White House.

But why should the man who succeeds in making a golden eagle captive, or who brings from its perch in the woods a monster specimen of the possum tribe, immediately conclude that it would prove an acceptable gift to Mr. Roosevelt, or a pleasing addition to the President's lares and penates?

One can scarcely blame Menelik, Emperor of Abyssinia, for fancying that a collection of the choicest wild animals of his Somali desert would please the American ruler.

Potentates of the East are accustomed to send to one another, as evidences of esteem, stately elephants, splendid lions and other fine representatives of the animal kingdom.

Consequently, when the dusky ruler of Abyssinia desired to express in fitting manner his friendship for the President of the great United States, he gathered up and shipped to



Washington the nucleus of a menagerie.

The animals arrived in November, 1904. The lot consisted of a lioness of Abyssinia, and one representing another North African species; a Somali zebra, a Somali ostrich and two Gelada baboons.

Mr. Roosevelt did not even receive this interesting collection at the White House, but had it hauled away directly to the zoo.

Sometime later His Highness, El Hadji Abdullah Sedik Basha Haeckel of Harar and a few other things, who came to this country as special commercial envoy of the Emperor Menelik, brought other gifts for the President,

but there were no live animals among them.

The new lot consisted of four big elephant tusks, a huge lion skin and a superb stuffed leopard mounted on an artificial stump, growing from artificial ground.

Not all the gifts of living creatures made to the President have consisted of wild animals. One that he highly appreciates is the riding horse Wyoming, presented to Mr. Roosevelt by the citizens of the State of that name.

A beautiful animal, high-bred and of great speed, Wyoming is a chestnut bay with white points.

While on his memorable western trip Mr.

Roosevelt rode Wyoming, the last relay made by the horse being the seventy-mile stretch from Laramie to Cheyenne.

That was a ride to be remembered. Several of those who made the trip were nearly worn out with fatigue when they arrived at Cheyenne, but the President seemed to be almost as fresh as when he started, although he had been eight hours in the saddle.

In order that he might not forget the inspiration of the plains, even when riding upon the well-kept roads about Washington, Mr. Roosevelt's admirers in the Southwest have presented him with a wonderful saddle, with all the

elaborate ornamentation that delights the heart of the cowboy of the Texas border.

Other friends and admirers from the land of the cowboys and prairie hunters have sent, from time to time, some splendid pelts, until there is now at the White House a really magnificent collection of skins.

Among the earliest gifts made to Mr. Roosevelt were several splendid antlered heads, which hang from the walls of the great State dining room.

These are among the most highly valued of the gifts that have been showered upon Mr. Roosevelt while in office.

Herbert Johnson